

The Honorable Robert S. Lasnik

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff

V.

PAIGE A. THOMPSON,

Defendant.

NO. CR19-159 RSL

**UNITED STATES' MOTION FOR
EXAMINATION OF DEFENDANT
UNDER FEDERAL RULE OF
CRIMINAL PROCEDURE 12.2(c) AND
MOTION TO COMPEL**

NOTING DATE: February 4, 2022

I. INTRODUCTION

On December 6, 2021, Defendant Paige Thompson, who has been indicted for computer crimes related to hacking and cryptojacking, filed a Notice of Intent to Present Expert Evidence of a Mental Condition Pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 12.2(b). The government asked that Thompson submit voluntarily to an examination by a government-retained psychologist, but Thompson’s counsel indicated that she does not consent to this request.

Accordingly, the government moves the Court to order a government examination of Thompson under Rule 12.2(c)(1)(B). Thompson's Rule 12.2(b) notice triggered the government's right to move for such an examination. And, as the Supreme Court stated in *Kansas v. Cheever*, 571 U.S. 87, 94 (2013), "[w]hen a defendant presents evidence through a psychological expert who has examined [her], the government likewise is permitted to

1 use the only effective means of challenging that evidence: testimony from an expert who
 2 has also examined [her].” Thompson waived her right to remain silent in response to
 3 questions concerning her mental capacity to form the requisite intent to commit the crimes
 4 for which she is charged when she filed her Rule 12.2(b) notice and placed her mental
 5 condition at issue. *Id.* at 94–97. The Court should order Thompson to participate in a
 6 government exam so that the government will have a fair chance to respond to, and rebut,
 7 Thompson’s mental-health defense. The Court should also order production of
 8 Thompson’s mental-health records for review by the government’s expert.

9 II. BACKGROUND

10 The underlying facts of this case are outlined in Part II of the United States’
 11 Opposition to Defendant’s Motion to Strike Cryptojacking Allegations and to Sever
 12 Count 8, *see* Dkt. No. 138, and are incorporated herein by reference. As relevant to this
 13 motion, on December 6, 2021—four days after the deadline to file pretrial motions in this
 14 case, which also is the deadline for notices under Rule 12.2—Thompson filed a bare-bones
 15 Rule 12.2(b) notice. *See* Dkt. No. 126. Thompson’s notice states only that she “inten[ds]
 16 to present expert evidence of a mental condition.” It provides no information identifying
 17 the witnesses she intends to call, the nature of the mental condition from which she suffers,
 18 or how it is relevant to her guilt.

19 The government reached out to the defense by letter dated December 14, 2021. A
 20 copy of the government’s December 14 letter is attached as Exhibit A. The government’s
 21 letter pointed out that Thompson’s notice not only was untimely, but, more importantly,
 22 that it failed to comply with Rule 16(b)(1)(C)(ii), which requires a defendant to provide a
 23 written summary of any testimony the defendant intends to introduce at trial under Rule
 24 12.2(b). The government’s letter reiterated the government’s request for reciprocal
 25 discovery under Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 16(b)(1),¹ and asked whether
 26 Thompson would consent to a mental-health evaluation by government experts.

27
 28 ¹ As the Court is aware, the defense has specifically declined to engage in reciprocal expert discovery. As a
 result, the government has moved the court for a pretrial hearing regarding the admissibility of expert testimony or
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1 Counsel for Thompson responded to the government via email the same day. A copy
 2 of that email is attached as Exhibit B. The defense disagreed that Thompson's notice was
 3 untimely and insufficient. Counsel referred the government to an August 2019 assessment
 4 of Thompson by Dr. Matthew Goldenberg, filed by the defense during pre-trial detention
 5 proceedings, *see* Dkt. 46, Exhibit 4 (sealed), but declined to provide any additional
 6 information regarding Thompson's mental condition or its relevance to her defense.²
 7 Thompson's counsel further indicated they were "available to discuss" the government's
 8 request for an evaluation by a government expert.

9 The following day, the government responded, again via letter. A copy of the
 10 government's December 15 letter is attached as Exhibit C. The government explained that
 11 Rule 16(b)(1)(C) requires the defense to provide a written summary of any testimony that
 12 the defendant intends to use if, as here, "the defendant has given notice under Rule
 13 12.2(b) of an intent to present expert testimony on the defendant's mental condition." Fed.
 14 R. Crim. P. 16(b)(1)(c)(ii). Accordingly, the government asked Thompson to confirm
 15 whether Dr. Goldenberg's August 2019 assessment constituted her full Rule 16 disclosure
 16 or whether she intended "to disclose additional opinions and/or additional expert
 17 witnesses."

18 The parties conferred by phone on the morning of December 21. During the call,
 19 Thompson's counsel confirmed that Dr. Goldenberg's written assessment was his full
 20 expert opinion and constituted Thompson's required disclosure under Rule 16(b)(1)(C).
 21 Thompson's counsel represented that Thompson did not intend to offer any expert
 22 opinions, other than those contained in Dr. Goldenberg's written evaluation.

23 Following this discussion, the government communicated with several psychiatrists
 24 and/or psychologists about the possibility of serving as an expert witness in the case. The
 25

26 else for a schedule of necessary recesses at trial to allow the government to adequately evaluate the admissibility of
 27 defense expert testimony, effectively cross-examine Thompson's experts, and prepare appropriate rebuttal testimony.
See Dkt. No. 125.

28 ² The defense also provided a copy of Dr. Goldenberg's CV.

1 government ultimately determined to hire Dr. Ken Muscatel, a licensed clinical and
 2 forensic psychologist who has served as an expert in numerous cases in this District and
 3 elsewhere.

4 In advance of another telephone conference scheduled for January 25, 2022, the
 5 government emailed information to the defense about its proposed examination of
 6 Thompson by a government expert. A copy of the government's January 25 email is
 7 attached as Exhibit D. During the subsequent phone conference, Thompson's counsel
 8 asked for additional information about the government's proposal. The government
 9 provided that information in an email on January 26, and a follow-up email on January 27.
 10 Copies of those emails are attached as Exhibit E and Exhibit F. The parties then spoke by
 11 phone on January 27, and counsel for Thompson stated that Thompson would not consent
 12 to the examination and that the government would need to file a motion with the Court.

13 **III. ARGUMENT**

14 **A. The government is entitled to have Thompson examined by its own expert**

15 Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 12.2 sets forth the framework that governs cases
 16 in which a defendant wishes to introduce evidence of a mental condition. Rule 12.2(b)
 17 requires a defendant who is not asserting an insanity defense, but who nevertheless intends
 18 to introduce expert evidence of a mental condition with respect to the issue of guilt, to
 19 provide advance notice to the government of her intention to do so. Once a defendant
 20 provides notice under Rule 12.2(b), as Thompson has done here, Rule 12.2(c) permits the
 21 court to order a defendant to submit to an examination by a government expert. Fed. R.
 22 Crim. P. 12.2(c)(1)(b); *see also United States v. Lewis*, 53 F.3d 29, 35 n.9 (4th Cir. 1995)
 23 (finding no error in a district court's order compelling a government mental health
 24 examination in light of the defendant's 12.2(b) notice); *United States v. Phelps*, 955 F.2d
 25 1258, 1263 (9th Cir. 1992) (a defendant who places his sanity or mental state at issue "can
 26 be compelled to submit to psychiatric examinations" on motion by the government); *United*
 27 *States v. Fell*, 2017 WL 9938051, at *2 (D. Vt. June 1, 2017) ("[Rule 12.2(b)] notice
 28 triggers the prosecution's right to conduct an exam of its own."). Such an order is necessary

1 for the government to be able to rebut expert mental-health evidence offered by the
 2 defendant. *See Cheever*, 571 U.S. at 94.

3 The very purpose of requiring notice under Rule 12.2(b) is to “alert[] the
 4 Government to a defendant’s intention to introduce expert mental-health evidence, thereby
 5 giving the Government a chance to prepare its own mental-health evidence in rebuttal.”
 6 *LeCroy v. United States*, 739 F.3d 1297, 1305 n.6 (11th Cir. 2014). Providing the
 7 government, the opportunity to examine the defendant is therefore a matter of fundamental
 8 fairness; indeed, “the *only effective means* of challenging” testimony by a defendant’s
 9 mental-health expert is testimony from a government “expert who has also examined
 10 [her].” *Cheever*, 571 U.S. at 94 (emphasis added). “Any other rule would undermine the
 11 adversarial process, allowing a defendant to provide the jury, through an expert operating
 12 as proxy, with a one-sided and potentially inaccurate view of [her] mental state at the time
 13 of the alleged crime.” *Id.*; *see also United States v. Holmes*, 2020 WL 5414786, at *2 (N.D.
 14 Cal. Sept. 9, 2020) (“Rule 12.2 . . . serves this interest in an adversarial presentation on a
 15 defendant’s Rule 12.2(b) defense.”); *United States v. Harding*, 219 F.R.D. 62, 63
 16 (S.D.N.Y. 2003) (“Rule 12.2 implicitly recognizes that fairness virtually requires that the
 17 government have an opportunity to have the defendant examined by appropriate experts in
 18 order that it may prepare properly for trial.”).

19 The importance of Rule 12.2(c)’s provision for a court-ordered government expert
 20 exam is further underscored by Rule 12.2(d)(1)(B), which permits a court to *exclude* “any
 21 expert evidence from the defendant on the issue of the defendant’s mental disease, mental
 22 defect, or any other mental condition . . . if the defendant fails to . . . submit to an
 23 examination when ordered under Rule 12.2(c).” *United States v. Telles*, 18 F.4th 290, 301
 24 (9th Cir. 2021) (quoting Fed. R. Crim. P. 12.2(d)(1)(B) and concluding the district court
 25 acted within its discretion in excluding the testimony of the defendant’s mental health
 26 expert where the defendant’s malingering during the exam left the government “unable to
 27 rebut [defendant’s expert’s] conclusions with its own expert’s diagnosis”). The
 28 government’s expert cannot meaningfully address the defense expert’s conclusions unless

1 the government's expert is "given similar access to the 'basic tool' of his or her area of
 2 expertise: an independent review with and examination of the defendant." *United States v.*
 3 *Haworth*, 942 F. Supp. 1406, 1408 (D.N.M. 1996). The government therefore has a
 4 compelling need to conduct its own examination of Thompson.

5 Moreover, when a defendant places her own mental health at issue by filing a Rule
 6 12.2 notice, she waives the right to remain silent and creates the need for the government
 7 expert's examination so essential to the review and consideration of the defendant's
 8 assertions. *See, e.g., United States v. Curtis*, 328 F.3d 141, 144–45 (4th Cir. 2003) ("When
 9 a defendant asserts a mental status defense and introduces psychiatric testimony in support
 10 of that defense . . . he may be required to submit to an evaluation conducted by the
 11 prosecution's own expert. That defendant has no Fifth Amendment protection . . . [T]he
 12 defendant waives his right to remain silent . . . by indicating that he intends to introduce
 13 psychiatric testimony." (quoting *Savino v. Murray*, 82 F.3d 593, 604 (4th Cir. 1996) and
 14 citing *Buchanan v. Kentucky*, 483 U.S. 402, 422–23 (1987))). The Supreme Court
 15 reaffirmed this principle in *Cheever*. In reversing the Kansas State Supreme Court, the
 16 Court explained that, where a defendant "offer[s] expert testimony about [her] inability to
 17 form the requisite *mens rea*," the Fifth Amendment does not bar the government from
 18 admitting defendant's statements to the government's expert during a court-ordered
 19 government exam. 571 U.S. at 95.

20 Accordingly, to ensure compliance with Rule 12.2, and to provide for fundamental
 21 fairness and protect the "core truth-seeking function of the trial, *id.*, the United States
 22 respectfully requests that the Court issue an order directing Thompson to submit to a
 23 mental-health examination by the government's expert, in accordance with the procedures
 24 and schedule set forth below in section C.

25 **B. The United States' mental-health expert should have access to the notes and
 26 test data of Thompson's expert as well as Thompson's mental-health records**

27 The government also moves to compel production of the medical records from three
 28 of Thompson's health care providers that Thompson provided to Dr. Goldenberg and that
 he reviewed, as well as the test results, raw testing data, and any notes from Dr.

1 Goldenberg's examination of Thompson. *See* Dkt. No. 46, Exhibit 4 (sealed) at 1–2.
 2 Thompson has waived the privilege associated with these records by putting her
 3 psychological state in issue. *See Jaffee v. Redmond*, 518 U.S. 1, 15 n.14 (1996) (“Like other
 4 testimonial privileges, the patient may of course waive the protection” of the
 5 psychotherapist-patient privilege.); *Doe v. Oberweis Dairy*, 456 F.3d 704, 718 (7th Cir.
 6 2006); *Kronenberg v. Baker & McKenzie LLP*, 747 F. Supp. 2d 983, 989 (N.D. Ill. 2010)
 7 (“[W]aiver is based upon the obvious principle of fairness that a party cannot inject his or
 8 her psychological treatment, conditions, or symptoms into a case and expect to be able to
 9 prevent discovery of information related to those issues.”); *United States v. Wilson*, 2012
 10 WL 3890951, at *7 (E.D.N.Y. Sept. 7, 2012) (applying the waiver rule in a criminal case
 11 where the defendant put his mental state at issue). *See also United States v. Ives*, 609 F.2d
 12 930, 932 (9th Cir. 1978) (disagreeing with trial court’s exclusion of medical records as “too
 13 remote in time” and explaining that the records were relevant to determining the
 14 “continuing mental state” of a defendant who had placed his mental condition at issue in
 15 his defense). A party cannot on the one hand “advance[e] a claim to a court . . . while
 16 relying on its privilege to withhold from a litigation adversary materials that the adversary
 17 might need to effectively contest or impeach the claim.” *John Doe Co. v. United States*,
 18 350 F.3d 299, 303 (2d Cir. 2003).

19 Fairness dictates that the government’s expert must be given the opportunity to
 20 review such records in preparation for rebutting Thompson’s Rule 12.2 defense at trial.
 21 *See also* Fed R. Crim. P. 16(b)(1)(B), advisory committee notes (1966 amendment) (“In
 22 cases where both prosecution and defense have employed experts to conduct tests such as
 23 psychiatric examinations, it seems as important for the government to be able to study the
 24 results reached by defense experts which are to be called by the defendant as it does for the
 25 defendant to study those of government experts.”)

26 In sum, the United States respectfully requests that the Court’s order directing
 27 Thompson to undergo a mental-health examination by the government’s experts also direct
 28 her to produce all of the mental health records examined by Dr. Goldenberg, as well as

1 records created as part of his examination of Thompson, so that they may be reviewed by
 2 the government's expert. Such a review is vital to the government's ability to respond to,
 3 and rebut, Thompson's mental-health defense.

4 **C. The Court should order the following procedures for the government expert's
 5 examination of Thompson**

6 The government requests the Court order the examination under Rule 12.2(c)(1)(B)
 7 to be completed on or before March 7, 2022, under the following conditions:

- 8 • The examination will occur over one day and will be scheduled to begin at 8:00 a.m.
- 9 • The examination will take place in an office or laboratory setting with COVID-19
 10 precautions. All persons present must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- 11 • The examination will consist of an interview portion, conducted by Dr. Ken
 12 Muscatel, and a testing portion conducted by a third-party psychologist chosen by
 13 Dr. Muscatel.
- 14 • Dr. Muscatel will prepare the questions for the interview portion of the examination
 15 and neither the government nor the defense will review the interview questions in
 16 advance of the interview.
- 17 • The government will not be present during the examination. An observer
 18 representing the defense may be present during the interview portion of the
 19 examination, but only Thompson and the third-party test administrator will be
 20 present during the testing portion.
- 21 • Dr. Muscatel will record the interview. *See United States v. Fell*, 2015 WL
 22 13781291, at *2 (D. Vt. Oct. 9, 2015) (video recording the examination is
 23 “consistent with the American Bar Association’s Guidelines on Criminal Justice
 24 Mental Health Standards”).

25 **D. Conclusion**

26 For the foregoing reasons, the government requests the Court issue an order
 27 directing Thompson to (1) produce no later than February 9, 2022, (a) all health care
 28 records, and any other records provided to Dr. Goldenberg, and (b) all testing data, test
 results, notes, reports produced during Dr. Goldenberg's examination of Thompson; and

1 (2) submit no later than February 28, 2022, to a government examination to be led by Dr.
2 Ken Muscatel.

3 DATED: January 27, 2022.
4

5 Respectfully submitted,
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